

# Orienting West Mexico The Mesoamerican World System [200–1200](#) CE

Peter F. Jimenez Betts  
Department of Historical Studies

Academic dissertation in archaeology to be publicly defended, by permission of the dean of the Faculty of Arts at University of Gothenburg, on February 7, 2018, at 13.15, in Stora hörsalen (2150), Department of Historical Studies, Eklandagatan 86, Gothenburg.

## ABSTRACT

Jimenez, P.F. 2018. Orienting West Mexico: The Mesoamerican World System [200–1200](#) CE. PhD thesis. Department of Historical Studies, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg. ISBN: 978-91-85245-75-5.

As world-systems theory came to the fore in archaeology during the 1980s and 1990s, it became evident that the analysis of pre-capitalist core/periphery relations required modifications of this theory for its further use in the discipline. As a result, the comparative approach for world-systems analysis (Chase Dunn and Hall 1997) discerned four interaction networks that defined pre-capitalist world-systems. The appearance of the comparative approach coincided with archaeology's detour into the diverse inquiries of postmodernism, for which conceptual advances in world-systems analysis went largely unnoticed by the discipline. The present study applies the nested network interaction framework of the comparative approach to examine material evidence for core/periphery relations between on the one hand two state level societies of central Mexico: Teotihuacan and Tula; and, on the other, West Mexico, one of the largest subareas of Mesoamerica. The operationalization of the nested networks as a material culture model for the Early Classic and Early Postclassic periods indicates that West Mexico was integrated into macroregional developments and change between [200-1200](#) CE. The present study represents one of the first comprehensive applications of the comparative approach in areal research undertaken in Mesoamerica.

Keywords: Archaeology, World-systems theory, World-systems analysis, Nested networks, Mesoamerica, West Mexico, Central Mexico, Early Classic, Epiclassic, Early Postclassic